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### Panel discusses UM philosophy professor's new book

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## **NEWS RELEASE**

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Feb. 15, 2007

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### **PANEL DISCUSSES UM PHILOSOPHY PROFESSOR'S NEW BOOK**

#### **MISSOULA—**

A new book by University of Montana Regents Professor of Philosophy Albert Borgmann will be the center of a panel discussion on American ethics Thursday, Feb. 22.

The event will be at 7 p.m. in the Dell Brown Room in Turner Hall on the UM campus.

Borgmann's book "Real American Ethics: Taking Responsibility for Our Country" was published by the University of Chicago Press in late 2006.

In the book Borgmann discusses how citizens of the United States have built a common social environment that channels the course of everyday life. However, he asserts, we are often ignorant of the shape of the environment and fail to take responsibility for it.

He writes that Americans, as a people, are only vaguely aware of the standards of excellence that should govern ethical practice and that we are mostly ignorant of the moral forces in our tangible environment.

Americans would be "better persons and a better people if we become more knowledgeable and responsible as regards our shared environment and if we begin to center

-more-



our world on the dinner table at home and on a diversity of communal celebrations in the public realm," he concludes.

Joining Borgmann as panelists for the event are Bridget Clarke, UM assistant professor of philosophy; Dan Spencer, assistant professor of environmental studies; and Jason Wiener, journalist.

Panel members will discuss particular aspects of the book and Borgmann will respond, followed by an open discussion with the audience. Refreshments will be served following the discussion.

Borgmann has taught philosophy at UM since 1970. Wiener and Clarke, a UM Rhodes Scholar, are among his former students.

The event is co-sponsored by the UM Center for Ethics, UM Department of Philosophy and the Montana Committee for the Humanities.

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